

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 155**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87—Relative to soccer in California.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 19, 2004.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

**SCR 87, Torlakson. Soccer in California.**

This measure would, among other things, declare the Legislature's wish to honor soccer players, teams, and coaches from the state and to recognize the overall contribution that the sport makes to the well-being of Californians.

WHEREAS, With a diverse fan base, unique mix of American and international stars on the professional field, and countless youth and recreational teams throughout the state, soccer is the 21st century sport that represents inclusiveness and many different cultures that now thrive in today's everchanging society regardless of socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, Major league soccer teams include players from all six international confederations and more than 31 countries from around the globe and feature a diverse mix of domestic and international players with young Central American players, such as the Los Angeles Galaxy's Carlos Ruiz, the MetroStars' Amado Guevara, and New England's Jose Cancellata contributing their exceptional talent and star quality to their teams; and

WHEREAS, Soccer is played by more than 240 million individuals worldwide, with 18 million players in the United States and 2 million players in California; and

WHEREAS, Over 700,000 children play youth soccer in California and 49 percent of them are girls; and

WHEREAS, Soccer players of all ages play at schools, parks, and urban fields throughout California, and win countless local, regional, state, and national championships; and

WHEREAS, The Cal-North and Cal-South State Associations collectively register more players with US Youth Soccer than organizations in any other state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Diablo Valley Soccer Club provides a comprehensive professional training program for youth soccer players and has won numerous State Cup Championships; and

WHEREAS, The Jesuit High School Marauders boys' soccer team, located in Sacramento, and the Montgomery High School Lady Vikings team, located in Santa Rosa, finished the fall 2003 season ranked number one in the country; and

WHEREAS, Paul Rose, the head coach of the Jesuit High School Marauders boys' soccer team, was named the "Coach of the Year" by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America; and

WHEREAS, Three of the 10 college soccer players named as the "2003 Collegiate National Players of the Year" by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America are from California, including Karin Sullivan of Westmont College, Fabricio Codeceira of Fresno Pacific University, and Ashley DeAlejandro of Long Beach City College; and

WHEREAS, The California Storm of the Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL), the only national amateur stand-alone soccer league for women, has been based in Sacramento for over 15 years, are the 1999 and 2002 Women's Premier Soccer League Champions, have over 13 former professional players from the now defunct Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA), and are sending seven of their players to the 2004 Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, California is the home of the 2004 Men's College Cup at the Home Depot Center; and

WHEREAS, The United States Soccer Federation National Team's training headquarters is located in the City of Carson; and

WHEREAS, The last three Major League Soccer Championships have been won by California teams—the Los Angeles Galaxy and the San Jose Earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, The San Jose Earthquakes of Major League Soccer are the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup champions; and

WHEREAS, Landon Donovan of the San Jose Earthquakes was the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup "Most Valuable Player"; and

WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Latino soccer-playing population in the United States with 49 percent of the total number of Latino players; and

WHEREAS, All Californians are proud of the tremendous achievements of these teams and the personal character of these talented individuals, as well as the numerous contributions that countless soccer players have made in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, Soccer at all levels helps develop teamwork, self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills, while promoting cultural understanding and awareness; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring*, That the Legislature wishes to honor the accomplishments of the players, teams, and coaches from California and to recognize the



overall contribution that soccer makes to the health and well-being of Californians of all ages and families of all backgrounds; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages its members, as well as organizations, businesses, and individuals, to sponsor, attend, and support soccer events throughout the state that are informative, fun, and result in a number of Californians becoming more actively involved in their communities; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

